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CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE &HUTZ

2022936229 P. 09-731 2-13-W

August 6, 2003

Docket No.: 21547-00287-US

(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Conf. No. 9654

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Tomas Back, et al.

Application No.: 10/020,401

Group Art Unit: 3732

FEB 0 4 2004

Filed: December 18, 2001

Examiner: M. Burngamer

OFFICIAL

For: METHOD AND ARRANGEMENT FOR PRODUCING ELONGATE SUPPORT ELEMENT AND PRODUCT, AND USE OF THE SUPPORT ELEMENT

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Box Non-Fee Amendment Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated May 16, 2003 (Paper No. 5), the following amendments and remarks are submitted in the above-cited application:

No fees are believed to be due with this amendment.

Amendments to the Specification are discussed beginning on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.